

ROBE OF THE HOONAH CHIEFS.

Squaws of the Last of the Line Carry It to the Palace.

Nearly everybody in and out of Larry has heard of Dick Willoughby, and his story is the Chicago Record. I have a vague recollection of a photograph that gives dim outlines of castles and other shadowy architecture—a city without any beginning or ending, but with faint suggestions of splendor that recall the glories of the Arabian Nights. Dick Willoughby says he took the photograph, and I would be glad to believe it, but the story that he told of it is so full of even more classic, vague and shadowy than the picture itself. The only tangible thing relating to the Silent City is Dick Willoughby himself.

The shelves, crannies and corners in his shack are filled with the accumulation of a third of a century of roving, from the Mackenzie river to Bering sea. He is a prospector above everything else, and consequently every prodigious—gold bearing quartz and many specimens of unidentified minerals—but he has also a rare collection of Indian curios. He has a scalping knife, a species, which is said to have been owned by the chiefs of a tribe of Hoonah Indians for 100 years. In 1870 Mr. Willoughby made an expedition to the copper islands, where the Indians come down from the interior to take sea otter. A son of the chief was ill with consumption, and it came in Mr. Willoughby's way to give him some medicine which may have prolonged his life for awhile. At all events, it won him the friendship of the tribe. The young man died, however, before the spring came. During the funeral rites Mr. Willoughby noticed that the body was wrapped in a fur robe of singular markings, and before the cremation of the body, according to the custom of the Indians, a squaw took the skin and, folding it carefully, laid it away. It had two large oval spots of reddish brown color, one on each side, on a white field. Willoughby calls it the skin of the extinct sea cow of northern waters, but it is more probably the pelt of a rare or extinct variety of hair seal. The nearest approach to it in Alaska is said to be the harp seal of the coast of northern coast, which has black markings of crescent shape on its sides. Willoughby approached the old chief with an offer to buy it.

"I cannot sell that," answered the Indian. "Every Hoonah chief as far back as we know—my father, and his father, and his grandfather—was wrapped in that robe when he died. And so, likewise, was my son, and so will I be when I die, and then—well, I don't know." So Willoughby relinquished the idea and thought no more about it. At that time the Sitka Indians had arrogated to themselves the rights of middlemen in all negotiations between the interior tribes and the white men. They had been able to maintain this position for many years by threats and misrepresentation. When spring came, the old chief had experienced good luck in taking furs, and he was very desirous of visiting and trading with white men at Sitka.

"Go with me," said Willoughby. "But the Sitka Indians will kill us." "Not if you go with me. My father has a big war vessel in harbor there, and the Sitkas will not dare to harm you."

Before the Indians started on their return trip the chief said to Willoughby:

"I am the last of my line. When I die, if you want it, I will have the sea cow skin brought to you."

Two years later, when Willoughby had a trading post at Port Frederick, four Indian women came and tarried around, as kioches do, waiting to be addressed. They had to wait a long time, as the trader was busy, but after a while he noticed that they were the squaws of the Hoonah chief. They unrolled a bundle, which proved to be the funeral robe of the Hoonahs. The old chief was dead, and his squaws had paddled a canoe through 50 miles of open, perilous sea to carry out his last wish.

He Knew the Story.

On neutral ground they met, the man from Kentucky and the one from Ohio. It was in the middle of the Newport bridge, and they shook hands and looked through the railing at the river below them.

"I heard a good story today," said the Ohioan.

"Something about a Kentuckian's dislike for water, I suppose?" said the blue grass chap, with a tired look in his face.

"No, about a Texas race. Follow that saw it said he never saw such running down in his life. It was a foot race between a cowboy and a college boy."

"And you told the man who told you," interrupted the Kentuckian, "that you could not believe the story because saloons in Texas aren't that far apart, eh? Yes, that was a good story when you and I were young."

Then the Kentuckian meandered Ohioard, while the man from the Buckeye State couldn't seem to get the satisfaction out of his cigar that he had before—Cincinnati Tribune.

A Spoiled Race.

Perhaps the most curious incident, says a correspondent, ever witnessed at Ascot was during one Royal Hunt Cup race. Every one knows how pretty the distance sprints are as the long row of brightly colored jackets streaming over the hill. The horses kept their level formation until nearly home, when suddenly a thunderbolt, not from the blues, descended on them. A mounted policeman occupied a position just in the course, and when the battling steeds were nearly opposite him he suddenly charged them. He and his horse dashed into their very midst, scattering them to right and left, and spreading consternation all around. Never was there such a scene! All the likely winners were included in the catastrophe, and the actual winners turned up in some outsider that escaped unscathed from the general melee. The unhappy policeman was immediately taken into custody, but the investigation showed that he was blameless. It was his horse that did it. Perhaps the animal had all along cherished the notion in his breast that he had a fine turn for speed and thought that the psychological moment had arrived to prove it. But nobody had backed it, so that if it had won nobody would have been the richer. Accordingly the crowd was angry and wanted the poor creature turned into cat meat at once. Such is the reward of trying to be what you are not.

The Beginning of the End.

Something whizzed through the air at a distance of about ten feet from the head of William the Conqueror. "Was that an arrow?" asked the monarch.

"It went rather too wide for a narrow," said the court jester, and from that moment his office began to lose in importance and respectability.—Indianapolis Journal.

Prelates at Repertoire.

There was an amusing episode at the commencement exercises of the Georgetown university. Archbishop Ryan of Philadelphia delivered an eloquent address on "Civil and Religious Liberty." At its conclusion Cardinal Gibbons was asked to say a few words. The cardinal expressed his pleasure with which he had listened to the archbishop and then recalled the famous will of Stephen Girard, who, in bequeathing the money for the Girard institute, stipulated expressly that no religious instruction should be ever included in the curriculum. He then passed on to Daniel Webster's great speech on that will and added that never since that speech had he heard the subject treated in so masterly a manner as it had been handled today by the distinguished archbishop of Philadelphia. Indeed it was a striking coincidence that not only did the two speakers agree on many thoughts, but that in many instances the reverend speaker today had made eloquent use of identical language of his great predecessor.

The audience smiled audibly and looked at Archbishop Ryan. The latter arose when Cardinal Gibbons had concluded. "I feel that the words of Cardinal Gibbons call for some little explanation on my part," he said. "I can only say that, while I am proud to have agreed with Daniel Webster, I did it unwittingly, for I have never read the speech to which the cardinal refers. But I drew my inspiration from a most excellent and interesting work written by Cardinal Gibbons himself on the subject, and it is not impossible that I was so carried away by the force and beauty of his language that I may have unconsciously repeated his very words. I will leave it to the audience to draw their own conclusions." Then the audience looked at Cardinal Gibbons for a counter explanation, but the prelate smiled good naturedly and made no response.—Washington Cor. Baltimore American.

The Only Colonization Is the English.

Colonization and territorial extension are burdens, not gains. Great civilized states cannot avoid these burdens. They are the penalty of greatness because they are the duties of it. No state can successfully undertake to extend its jurisdiction unless its internal vitality is high, so that it has surplus energy to dispose of. Russia is a state which has taken upon itself tasks of this kind beyond its strength and for which it is in no way competent. Italy offers at this moment the strongest instance of a state which is impeding its domestic welfare for a colonial policy which is beyond its strength, is undertaken arbitrarily and has no proper motive. Germany has taken up a colonial policy with great eagerness, apparently from a notion that it is one of the attributes of a great state. To maintain it she must add a great navy to her great military establishment and increase the burdens of a population which is poor and heavily taxed and which has not in its territory any great natural resources from which to draw the strength to bear its burdens.

Spain is exhausting her strength to keep Cuba, which can never repay the cost unless it is treated on the old colonial plan as a subject province to be exploited for the benefit of the mother country. If that is done, however, the only consequence will be another rebellion and greater expenditure. England, as a penalty of her greatness, finds herself in all parts of the world face to face with the necessity of maintaining her jurisdiction and of extending it in order to maintain it. When she does so, she finds herself only extending law and order for the benefit of everybody. It is only in circumstances like hers that the burdens have any compensation.—Forum.

Endurance of Man.

The question of the endurance of the man of today is always anthropologically curious when compared with the past. The general consensus of opinion tends to the belief that the average primitive man, as far as physique is concerned, was not a whit better off than is his descendant of today. Even special traits may be denied to the first. Environment would, of course, have made changes—adapted him to peculiar climates. As to the question of endurance, Mr. Caspar Whitney, an endurance, vividly that the white man was quite the equal of the Indian man in the far north, with the white man could keep up outdoor life in running and even in the Indian, and besides that, could stand privation and exposure to a terrible low temperature, just as well as the Indian. The white man had certain advantages even, due to a higher cerebral development, such as the will power. In fact, Mr. Whitney knew better how to take care of himself and preserve his vital force than did his redskin companions. But there was one single advantage the Cree or the half breed did possess, and it was that from constant use of the sole of the foot the epidermis of the Indian was just thicker than that of the white man.

The Saloon.

The saloon is at the bottom of about all that is bad on this continent. Alcohol is the devil in solution. If we would destroy the works of the devil, we must first destroy the works of the grogshop. The welfare of this country is bound up with the moral condition of its people.—Rev. G. L. White, Baptist, Pittsfield, Me.

Poverty in the Church.

I think there is no one in more need of the gospel than the rich man. It is true that the gospel is not preached to the poor as much as it ought to be. Nevertheless the church is the most part of poor men, and the poor furnish the larger support of the church.—Rev. Wallace Nutting, Congregationalist, Providence.

The Art of Life.

Science has already done a vast amount of detached work for the improvement of life. But she is now beginning to go to work constructively on the life of man as a whole. She is beginning to recognize that all the sciences exist for the supreme science, the science of life. Out of this supreme science the art of life.—Rev. W. R. Taylor, Presbyterian, Rochester.

Sin.

Sin is always expensive. It never pays what it promises. The flowers in the distance in the pathway of sin always wither before you reach them, and the way becomes a way of thorns. Sabbath breakers, pleasure seekers and drunkards all pay their price, but never reach the intended destination. Blasted prospects, shattered constitutions, ruined families are the price of sin.—Rev. P. A. Baker, Methodist, Columbus, O.

Evolution.

The time must come when all scientific men will admit that there must be something beyond this present life of ours. The theory of evolution is now being accepted by all leaders of science, and the only interpretation of life as we see it is that there must be another life beyond for which we are being prepared. The doctrine of immortality is now popularly accepted.—Rev. Henry Blanchard, Universalist, Portland, Me.

The Spanish Main.

We write and talk glibly enough of the Spanish main, but when did the phrase first come into use and what was its exact geographical significance? The present idea, however, we take it, from the delightful romance of "Westward, Ho!" seems to be that the phrase was in common use among the Elizabethan sailors to signify that part of the great American continent on which the Spaniards had effected a settlement when we first broke into the Caribbean sea—that is to say, from Vera Cruz, in the Gulf of Mexico, to the delta of the Orinoco. But we cannot find that the phrase was in use at that time. In the pages of Hakluyt we read of the main, of the firm land, which is, of course, a literal translation of the Spanish term "tierra firma," of the mainland coast, of the coast of the Indies or of the West Indies, but of the Spanish main we have nowhere been.

Nor have we been able to find it in the writers of the next century. Dampier does not use it, nor Lionel Wafer, nor the translator of Exquemelin's "Do Americaines Zoo-Rovers." It is not to be found in Morgan's official reports of his buccaneering exploits, nor in Ringrose's narrative, nor in Sharp's. In the map engraved for Dampier's "Voyages" (1729), the term firm land is employed to designate the territory now occupied by the republics of Venezuela and Colombia. The original use of the term of the Spaniards, according to Ulloa, included only the provinces of Veragua, Panama and Darien, with the City of Panama for its capital.

We may be in error, and certainly we do not profess that our researches have been exhaustive, but the earliest use we have found of the term the Spanish main is in "The Journal of Admiral James," lately published by the Navy Records society, where, on Nov. 13, 1779, the admiral notes that he "bore away for Truxillo, on the Spanish main," Truxillo being the port of Honduras.—Magellan's Magazine.

Leigh Hunt.

Leigh Hunt was not an immense talker like Coleridge and Carlyle, a wit like Rogers and Sydney Smith, an authority and an opinion like John Ruskin and Hallam, a dealer in reminiscences, a chronicler, an accepted critic of art and letters, an asker of questions, an arguer for virtue—all acknowledged species in the category of talkers and good in their place—but a talker who was never tedious because he was always fluent and graceful and talked with, not only to, his company. And then he sat down with his conversational pen to talk about his life he was not in a hurry for the printer and could call upon memory and imagination to reproduce the good company he had kept and the memorable things which he had seen and heard.

Leigh Hunt gives us in his autobiography not only his own life, but what is the chief charm of a good biography, a picture of the time as well as the man. We should not care so much for even Boswell's "Johnson" if we did not find him in the company of Burke, Goldsmith, Sir Joshua and his other playmates. Hunt always kept good company. He was the intimate friend of Shelley and Keats—above all of Charles Lamb; the associate of James and Horace Smith, of Fossell, Campbell, Charles Matthews, Theodore Hook and a score besides; of Byron, whose brilliant scorched him; of Coleridge, whom he quizzed and admired; of Wordsworth, whom he quizzed and respected. To have had such friends is a sufficient testimonial to his genius and his heart.—Temple Bar.

The Ants Talked About It.

It is becoming the general belief among naturalists that all living creatures have some communication with each other, at least to the extent of making their wants, fears, etc., known to others of their species. A writer of ants recently investigated the matter as far as those interesting little creatures were concerned. He says: "I was very much surprised to find that ants apparently move in a certain direction, those going in one direction and those going in the opposite direction. They were probably pretty well along with their work, judging by the leisurely way in which they jogged along, and upon meeting they would frequently put their heads together as though chatting about their new quarters or some other interesting subject. It being a question in the naturalist's mind whether they were really talking or not, he hit on the expedient of marking for another load of household furniture. 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